



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians is important to the prosperity and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems, with scientific studies documenting the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral disorders; and

WHEREAS, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community; and

WHEREAS, all citizens should contribute to a safe, nurturing environment to support families raising children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among families, social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and how we can prevent it, as prevention remains the best defense for our children; and

WHEREAS, displaying a pinwheel during the month of April will serve as a positive reminder that together we can prevent child abuse and neglect and keep children safe;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize April 2014 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Terence R. McAuliffe in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Jean M. Stang in blue ink.

Secretary of the Commonwealth